

# Traffic Stops: Summary of Draft Rules

The San Francisco Police Department is considering rewriting their rules (“general order”) about when police officers should stop people who are in cars, on motorcycles, biking, or walking. The new rules would:

- **Prohibit police officers from making “biased stops.”** A “biased stop” is when a police officer stops a person only because of their race, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion, gender, disability, socioeconomic status, clothing, appearance, or neighborhood.
- **Limit when police officers can make “pretext stops.”** A “pretext stop” is when a police officer stops a person about the traffic code because they want to search or investigate them for something unrelated.

**Under the suggested new rules, police officers should not stop people for the following reasons:**

- People driving cars or motorcycles
  - Not displaying both license plates
  - Not displaying registration tags, or having an expired registration
  - Not illuminating license plates
  - Headlights not working (unless all of the headlights are broken and it is after sunset)
  - Taillights not working (unless all of the taillights are broken and it is after sunset)
  - Brake lights not working (unless all of the brake lights are broken and it is after sunset)
  - Tinted windows
  - Hanging something on rearview mirror or windows
  - Improperly mounted license plate
  - Not signaling while turning or changing lanes (unless it is likely to cause injury or death)
  - Littering (unless it is likely to cause injury or death)
  - U-turn if the driver can see for 200 feet in both directions (unless it is likely to cause injury or death)
  - Sleeping in car
  - Parking infractions (unless no one is in the car)
- People walking or biking
  - Jaywalking (unless it is likely to cause injury or death)
  - Biking on the sidewalk
  - Riding a scooter (non-motorized) on the sidewalk
  - Biking on a road outside the designated area for bikes

**Police officers would still be able to:**

- Mail a ticket if they can identify the car’s owner
- Issue a ticket if there is no one in the car

**Police officers would also still be able to:**

- Stop people if they are driving commercial vehicles
- Stop people for any traffic infraction, misdemeanor, or felony not listed above
- Stop a person or vehicle if they match the description of a suspect in a felony where there is risk of life-threatening injuries or death (examples: murder, armed robbery, kidnapping, felony against a child)